(c) The current rate of import duty on cotton is 10 per cent. The import duty on cotton is decided on the basis of the need to protect domestic producers and also to make available raw material to users at reasonable prices.

Testing of Coca Cola as pesticide

†473. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 844 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any scientific tests with regard to spraying coca cola and pepsi on crops to kill harmful insects to ascertain as to what extent such spraying is successful on crops, and

(b) if not, the reasons for not carrying out scientific tests on such spraying and the reasons for delay in the said tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Scientists of the Agriculture Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh have advised the farmers against spraying of crops with cola drinks since would neither be economical nor useful. Hence no scientific tests/trials were carried out in this regard.

Withdrawal of Insurance Schemes

†474. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to withdraw crops Insurance Scheme and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (N.A.I.S.) 'Farm Income Insurance Scheme', 'Rain Insurance Scheme' etc;

(b) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the same;

(c) if not, whether these schemes are being amended; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed amendments?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.